

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, UY

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS INQUIRIES ON URUGUAYAN NATIONALS JORGE
CARABALLO AND CLEMENTE PADIN

REF: STATE 174779

1. PURSUANT TO REFTTEL, ON 13 JULY POLOFF VISITED COL.
MAYNARD, DIRECTOR OF THE OFICINA DE INFORMACION DE PERSONAS
(OCIP), TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE REPORTED ARRESTS OF JORGE
CARABALLO AND CLEMENTE PADIN. COL. MAYNARD REPLIED TO THE
INQUIRIES ON THE SPOT. FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION RECEIVED:

2. OSCAR JORGE CARABALLO GONZALEZ WAS ARRESTED IN LATE AUGUST
1977 AND INDICTED FOR ATTACKING THE MORALE AND REPUTATION
(FUERZA MORAL) OF THE ARMY. HE WAS RECENTLY RELEASED ON BAIL
AND IS CURRENTLY AT LIBERTY.

3. CLEMENTE PADIN WAS ARRESTED ON 23 AUGUST 1977 AND
INDICTED 20 OCTOBER FOR ATTACKING THE MORALE AND REPUTATION OF
THE ARMY. HE IS CURRENTLY DETAINED IN A CIVILIAN PALCE OF
DETENTION, EITHER LIBERTAD OR PUNTA CARRETAS PRISON. HE IS
DEFENDED BY DR. JUAN BARBE, AN OFFICIAL DEFENDER, AND IS
BELIEVED BY THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT TO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE
IN THE URUGUAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCU) AND THE URUGUAYAN
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COMMUNIST YOUTH MOVEMENT (UJC). COL. MAYNARD STATE THAT,
BECAUSE OF THE SIMILARITY OF THE CASES OF PADIN AND CARA-
BALLO, HE EXPECTS THAT PADIN, TOO, WILL BE RELEASED ON BAIL
IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. THESE CASES ARE OF INTEREST TO CONGRESSMEN BURTON, ROONEY
AND LUJAN AND WE REQUEST THAT THE INFORMATION IN PARAS 2 AND

3 BE TRANSMITTED TO THEM.

5. COMMENT: BOTH THE SPEED AND COOPERATIVENESS OF THE OCIP CAME AS A PLEASANT REVELATION. ALTHOUGH THE STAFF HAS NOT BEEN AUGMENTED, AND REFURBISHMENT OF THE OFFICE STILL CONTINUES IT IS EVIDENT THAT STARTUP PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN LARGELY OVERCOME. IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION, COL. MAYNARD SHOWED THE EMBASSY OFFICER A COPY OF AN INQUIRY RECEIVED FROM CONGRESSMAN BURTON ON THESE CASES AND NOTED THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ANSWERED DIRECTLY BUT HE WOULD NOW RESPOND VIA THE EMBASSY. POLOFF THANKED COL. MAYNARD FOR HIS RESPONSIVENESS AND SPENT THE LAST HALF-HOUR OF THE VISIT STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF QUICK, ACCURATE REPLIES TO FOREIGN HUMAN RIGHTS INQUIRIES, TO WHICH COL. MAYNARD AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY.
CHEEK

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